

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of regulating access to a content selection, the method comprising:
 accessing a medium associated with the content selection;
 identifying a profile associated with the medium;
 5 using the profile to analyze a content request with a multitiered rule base that includes
 two or more of a medium rule base, a media player rule base, and a host rule base; and
 enabling access to the content selection in accordance with one or more results of the
 analysis.

10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying the profile includes identifying a
 reference for the medium.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein identifying the reference includes identifying a
 unique serial number.

15 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying a user accessing the content
 selection.

20 5. The method of claim 4 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request
 includes determining an access right for the user for content identified by the profile.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising reporting the content request to a
 reporting agent.

25 7. The method of claim 6 wherein reporting the content request includes aggregating
 multiple content requests associated with a media player and reporting the multiple content
 requests to a host.

30 8. The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request
 includes identifying priorities for rule bases within the multitiered rule base and polling a
 higher priority rule base to analyze the content request before polling a lower priority rule
 base.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze a content request includes automatically discovering additional access rights by polling the multitiered rule base if a user attempts to engage in a content request for an operation not previously allowed in accordance with the access right.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising enabling the user to engage in the content request by charging the content request against a user account.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein charging against the user account includes adjusting a license pool that enables the user to engage in one or more licensing operations.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein adjusting the license pool includes adjusting an escrow account for previously purchased access rights that do not specifically identify the content selection.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein charging against the user account includes using an out-of-band token to identify the account, and charging the content request against the user account in response to using the out-of-band token.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes using the host rule base to analyze content requests, using the media player rule base if the host rule base is unavailable, and using the medium rule base if the media player rule base is unavailable.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes determining an access right without challenging a user.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein reading the medium includes reading an out-of-band token related to the medium.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein using the multitiered rule base includes using the multitiered rule base in an operation that is transparent to the user.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes enabling a user to copy content only when the host rule base is used to analyze the content request.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes enabling a user to copy content when a content-access system rule base is used to analyze a content request and a media player storing the media player rule base has exchanged licensing information with a host.

20. A system for regulating access to a content selection, the system comprising:
a content module structured and arranged to access a medium associated with the content selection;
a profiling module structured and arranged to identify a profile associated with the medium;
an analysis module structured and arranged to use the profile to analyze a content request with a multitiered rule base that includes two or more of a medium rule base, a media player rule base, and a host rule base; and
a regulating module structured and arranged to enable access to the content selection in accordance with one or more results from the analysis module.

21. The system of claim 20 further comprising a communications interface structured and arranged to report the content request to a reporting agent.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the communications interface is structured and arranged to aggregate multiple content requests associated with a media player and reporting the multiple content requests to a host.

23. The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to identify priorities for rule bases within the multitiered rule base and poll a higher priority rule base to analyze the content request before polling a lower priority rule base.

5 24. The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to automatically discover additional access rights by polling the multitiered rule base if a user attempts to engage in a content request for an operation not previously allowed in accordance with the access right.

10 25. The system of claim 24 further comprising an accounting module structured and arranged to enable the user to engage in the content request by charging the content request against a user account.

15 26. The system of claim 25 wherein the accounting module is structured and arranged to adjust a license pool that enables the user to engage in one or more licensing operations.

20 27. The system of claim 26 wherein the accounting module is structured and arranged to adjust an escrow account for previously purchased access rights that do not specifically identify the content selection.

25 28. The system of claim 25 wherein the accounting module is structured and arranged to use an out-of-band token to identify the account, and charge the content request against the user account in response to using the out-of-band token.

30 29. The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to use the host rule base to analyze content requests, use the media player rule base if the host rule base is unavailable, and use the medium rule base if the media player rule base is unavailable.

30. The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to enable a user to copy content only when the host rule base is used to analyze the content request.

5 31. The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to enable a user to copy content when a content-access system rule base is used to analyze a content request and a media player storing the media player rule base has exchanged licensing information with a host.

10 32. A system for regulating access to a content selection, the system comprising:
 means for accessing a medium associated with the content selection;
 means for identifying a profile associated with the medium;
 means for using the profile to analyze a content request with a multitiered rule base
 that includes two or more of a medium rule base, a media player rule base, and a host rule
 15 base; and
 means for enabling access to the content selection in accordance with one or more
 results of the analysis.